

Registered Nurse

A. Purpose of Procedure

A Registered Nurse (RN) for WIC provides basic health education in the area of infant, child, and maternal health including breastfeeding promotion and support. A RN may function as the Competent Professional Authority (CPA) for determination of participant eligibility and certification.

B. Scope of the Procedure

A Registered Nurse must meet specific qualifications and perform specific responsibilities in providing WIC services as the Competent Professional Authority.

C. General Procedure

Qualifications

- A Registered Nurse must be registered in the state of Iowa. (Iowa Administrative Code 655-3)
- The following skills are desirable:
 - Professional work experience in public health services
 - Computer skills including word processing and/or data entry
 - Ability to overcome language/cultural barriers to connect with a diverse population of low-income populations
 - Ability to work with community leaders and health professionals

Responsibilities

A Registered Nurse's responsibilities may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Functions as the Competent Professional Authority (CPA) for determination of program eligibility and certification
- Assess and document a participant's nutrition risk(s) including measuring length/height/weight, perform hematocrit or hemoglobin test, and complete the Nutrition Interview.
- Prescribe food packages
- Provide nutrition education, including breastfeeding promotion and support that is responsive to the participant's needs and interests
 - **Note:** High risk participants must be scheduled for at least one individual education contact by a licensed dietitian. If the initial contact is provided by a registered nurse, then a licensed dietitian must provide the second education contact. If a licensed dietitian provides the initial contact, then a

registered nurse could provide the second nutrition education contact at the discretion of the licensed dietitian.

- Identifies and documents care plans
- Complete and follow-up on referrals to other health and social services
- Document screening and referrals for lead testing and immunizations
- Provide support to breastfeeding women and promotes breastfeeding efforts
- Supervises and delegates specific tasks to a licensed practical nurse in the clinic setting
- Serves as the staff person qualified to provide program and health information to interested professionals, outside agencies, organizations and individuals
- Provides excellent customer service
- Participate in outreach activities
- Participant in quality assurance/improvement activities
- Assists the WIC Coordinator in developing needed program and personnel evaluation tools and plans
- Interacts with Various Programs
 - Participates in community needs assessment in the agency service area
 - Communicates or interacts with various programs including, but not limited to the following:
 - Iowa Department of Public Health
 - Department of Human Services
 - Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
 - I-Smile
 - Early Head Start/Head Start
 - Public Health Nursing
 - Area physicians, HMOs, and hospital staff
 - Area Education Agency
 - Family Planning agencies
 - Lead Poisoning Prevention programs
 - Child Health Specialty Clinics
 - Child Care Resource and Referral agencies
 - Staff of other WIC contract agencies
 - Other community groups
- Assess the competency of the Licensed Practical Nurse in performing WIC functions and be available for consultation for the Licensed Practical Nurse. A Registered Nurse must be available for consultation, but is not required to be on site during clinic. (Iowa Administrative Code: 655 – 6.3(11)f(1))

Training

- Registered Nurses must complete training requirements as outlined in the policies “Local Agency Personnel Training”, “Training and Education Record”, and “New Employee Training Checklist”.